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Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00612 060020Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 DHA-05 SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02
A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CU-06 SCS-05
CA-01 ACDA-10 /119 W
----------075009 061210Z /45
R 051710Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0612

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: AS NORMALITY RETURNS, MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR VISIT SCENES OF VIOLENCE

REF: FLORENCE 594

1. AFTER SATURDAY AFTERNOON'S VIOLENCE, TUESDAY FLORENCE MAYOR GABBUGGIANI (PCI) AND VICE MAYOR COLZI (PSI) VISITED SOME OF THE SHOPS ATTACKED ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 1 AND ONE OF THE REAL ESTATE OFFICES ATTACKED SEPTEMBER 28 (SEE REFTEL). ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RAMPAGE HAD DISAPPEARED. SHOP WINDOWS WERE REPAIRED AND STORES WERE AGAIN OPEN. SHOPPERS WERE BACK IN NORMAL NUMBERS. NO EXTRA POLICE WERE ANYWHERE IN EVIDENCE, THE ATMOSPHERE RETURNED TO TRANQUILITY IN KEEPING WITH THE BALMY WEATHER WHICH SETTLED IN MONDAY AFTER SUNDAY'S VITIATING RAINSTORMS. MAYOR GABBUGGIANI SUMMONED MONDAY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER TO AN 'EMERGENCY MEETING' (INSTEAD OF THE CITY COUNCIL) WHICH IN TURN CALLED A 'MANIFESTATION' (A MARCH FROM FORTEZZA DA BASSO TO PIAZZA SIGNORIA STARTING 5 P.M. THURSDAY) 'AGAINST FASCIST DESTRUCTION AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC VIOLENCE' WHILE THE
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PROVINCIAL LABOR FEDERATION OF CGIL-CISL-UIL PROCALIMED A GENERAL STRIKE THURSDAY FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL CLOSING. THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER IS FORMED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARC PARTIES (DC. PCI, PSI, PRI, PSDI, PLI, PDUP) AND OF THE LABOR UNIONS AND THE 'RESISTENZA' ASSOCIATIONS.

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2. SATURDAY'S VIOLENCE BEGAN WHEN EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY LEFTISTS TWO THOUSAND STRONG DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE ROSSI KILLING IN ROME, AGAINST INCREASE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANTS AND AGAINST THE EXPULSION OF ILLEGAL TENANTS FROM 'OCCUPIED HOTELS' AA MARCHED FROM HISTORIC PIAZZA SANTA CROCE TOWARD THE FAMED DUOMO WHEN SUDDENLY SOME MARCHERS ERUPTED INTO SMALL GROUPS AS THOUGH BY PRECONCEIVED PLAN SMASHING 40 SHOW WINDOWS WITH WRENCHES AND THROWING PREPARED MOLOTOV COCKTAILS INTO SEVERAL OF FLORENCE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS FASHION STORES (INCLUDING VITTADELLO WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE PCI) FOR A HALF HOUR SATURDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 1.

3. ALTHOUGH POLICE REPORTEDLY INTERVENED PROMPTLY ONLY FOUR ARRESTS WERE MADE OF WHICH NONE WERE HELD. POLICE HAVE REPORTED NO LEADS AND HAVE OFFERED NO EXPLANATIONS. THEY HAVE DISPLAYED UNEXPLODED MOLOTOV COCKTAILS FOUND NEARBY IN A PARKED CAR DURING THE DISTURBANCES APPARENTLY INTENDED TO RESUPPLY THE MARAUDERS.

4. THE 'MOVEMENT OF STUDENTS' ALSO MEETING MONDAY FOR AN 'AUTOCRITICAL' SESSION DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY, CONCLUDED THAT THE TROUBLE AROSE FROM 'NEW ELEMENTS' AND OBLIQUELY CRITICIZED THE RAMPAGE. THE DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY PROPSED MUNICIPAL COMPENSATION OF THE INJURED MERCHANTS.

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5. IN A CONVERSTION WITH THE POL/ECON OFFICER THE PCI REGIONAL SECRETARY TREATED THE VIOLENCE, THE GENERAL STRIKE AND THE PLANNED MANIFESTATION MATTER OF FACTLY. THE PCI AND SEVERAL OTHER LEFTIST EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY PARTIES HAVE ALL OPPOSED THE LOCAL EVENTS BUT SOUGHT BY VARIOUS MEANS TO DIVERT ATTENTION TO THE 'FASCIST THREAT'.

6. COMMENT: THE RHETORIC EMANATING FROM THE LEFT IS STRAINING TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON AN ALLEGED FASCIST MENACE EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF A CLEARLY LEFTIST RAMPAGE. AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO CIRCULATE THE IDEA THAT THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE BOMBINGS WERE FASCIST PROVOCATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MAYOR, THE LOCAL POLICE AND THE PREFECT ARE EXCHANGING RECRIMINATIONS FOR THE LAPSE IN PUBLIC SECURITY VIGILANCE AS WELL AS THE CONVOCATION OF YET ANOTHER MANIFESTATION TO MENACE THE PUBLIC SAFETY (IN THE VIEW OF SOME) AND FURTHER CURTAIL BUSINESS BY FORCING SHOPS IN THE CENTRAL CITY TO CLOSE FOUR HOURS EARLY.
WRIGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Subject: AS NORMALITY RETURNS, MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR VISIT SCENES OF VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT
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